

Application No. 10/090,503

Attorney Docket No. 10541-453

III. Remarks

Claims 1-11 are rejected and pending, claims 7-11 have been amended, and claims 12-15 have been added. With the new claims added and the remarks provided below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and a withdrawal of all rejections.

Specification

In the specification, Paragraph 0014, line 12 has been amended to read "...metallic sheet with the help of the heat stake boss 18 and locating boss 22" in order to correctly identify the heat stake boss with the reference number 18. The specification previously correctly identified the heat stake boss with the reference number 18 in other sections of the specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added with this amendment.

Claim Objections

Responsive to the claim objections, misnumbered claims 6 (second occurrence) -10 have been renumbered to 7-11, respectively, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.126. Applicants will use the notation of the renumbered claims from this point forward in the remarks.

Further Claim Clarifications

Prior to discussing the cited references, it is believed that a brief discussion on the claims as amended is warranted. The original dependent claim 11 of this application has been amended to clarify, more particularly to point out and distinctly claim that which applicant regards as the subject matter of the present invention. Specifically, claim 11 now recites "the attachment bosses include at least one locating boss and at least one heat stake boss..." Claim 11 now correctly reads a "heat stake boss" instead of a "heat stack boss." The specification in the original application as filed referred to a "heat stake boss 18" in Paragraph 0014, line 10, and therefore no new matter has been added. Additionally, the word "thermoformable" has been deleted from claim 11 in order to more accurately claim

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BRINKS
HOFFER
GILSON
& LIONE

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
PO Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60611-5599

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the present invention. The specification in the original application as filed does not require the attachment bosses to be thermoformable, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Responsive to the rejections of claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), *Munger et al. ("Munger")* fails to teach each and every element of a device as claimed in the present application. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Claim 1 recites a method of forming a trim part including "engaging the first side of the substrate with the upper mold," "engaging the second side of the substrate with the lower mold," and "compression molding the first side of the substrate such that the first side forms the outer surface of the trim part." Contrarily, *Munger* is absent any teaching of an embodiment comprising the step of engaging the first side of the substrate with the upper mold and engaging the second side of the substrate with the lower mold where the first side forms the outer surface of the trim part as claimed. In *Munger*, the cover stock 27 is located proximal to and parallel with the sheet molding material 29 such that the first side of the cover stock 27 engages the upper mold 3 and the second side of the cover stock 27 engages the sheet molding material 29 (see Figure 5 of *Munger*). Because *Munger* fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claim 2, which depends on claim 1, further recites the steps of providing a gate on the lower mold, attaching at least one surface runner to the gate, injecting a resin through the gate into the surface runner, directing the flow of the resin through the surface runner, and forming the attachment surface by injection molding the resin on the second side of the substrate. *Munger* fails to teach the steps of providing a gate or a surface runner. Because *Munger* fails to teach the elements of claim 2, the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 6, 7, and 10 depend on claims which depend generally on claim 1. Thus, claims 3, 6, 7, and 10 are allowable for the reasons provided above.

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BRINKS
HOFER
GILSON
& LIONE

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
PO Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60611-5599

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Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Responsive to the rejection of claims 4, 5, 8, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Munger* in view of *Baba et al.* ("*Baba*"), the combination does not teach or suggest all the elements of these claims. As stated above, *Munger* does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1 and *Baba* does not teach or suggest elements to cure deficiencies of *Munger*. Moreover, *Baba* does not teach an attachment surface as defined in claim 1 because *Baba* fails to teach any attachment method of the instrument panel 1 to an interior of a motor vehicle. Additionally, *Munger* and *Baba* do not teach or suggest all of the elements of dependent claim 5. Dependent claim 5 recites an attachment surface extending along a periphery of the second side of the substrate. *Munger* discloses a bracket 25 molded to a surface of the sheet molding material 29, but neither *Munger* nor *Baba* discloses an attachment surface extending along a periphery of the second side of the substrate. Furthermore, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine *Munger* and *Baba*. Because *Munger* fails to teach an embodiment having each and every element of the claimed invention, and *Baba* does not teach or suggest elements to cure *Munger's* deficiencies, the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Responsive to the rejection of dependent claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Munger* in view of *Baba*, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 11 as amended. As stated above, *Munger* does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1 and *Baba* does not teach or suggest elements to cure *Munger's* deficiencies. Neither *Munger* nor *Baba* disclose a heat stake boss extending from the second side to attach the trim part to the interior sheet. Thus, the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 8, and 9 depend on claims which depend generally on claim 1. Thus, claims 4, 8, and 9 are allowable for the reasons provided above.

Claims 12-15 have been added. Claim 12 depends from claim 1, and is in a condition for allowance based on the above remarks. Additionally, claim 12 recites

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BRINKS
HOFFER
GILSON
LIONE

BRINKS HOFFER GILSON & LIONE
PO Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60611-5599

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at least one attachment boss with a "substantially circular cross-section," which is not disclosed in the cited references. Figures 2 and 4 of the original application as filed disclose attachment bosses having a substantially circular cross-section, and therefore no new matter has been added.

New independent claim 13 recites the subject matter from claims 1 and 11, including an "attachment surface having at least two attachment bosses extending from the attachment surface to attach the trim part to the interior sheet, the attachment surface including at least one locating boss and at least one heat stake boss." As discussed with respect to claim 11, new independent claim 13 is allowable. Claim 14 depends from claim 13, and is patentable as discussed above with respect to claim 12.

New independent claim 15 recites the subject matter from claims 1 and 5, including an "attachment surface extending along a periphery of the second side of the substrate, the attachment surface having at least one attachment bosses extending from the attachment surface to attach the trim part to the interior sheet." As discussed above with respect to claim 5, new independent claim 15 is allowable.

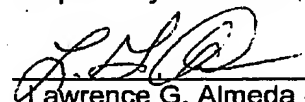
Therefore, claims 1-15 are in a condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Applicants have calculated no fees to be presently due in connection with the filing of this Paper. However, Applicants have authorized charging of any fee deficiency to the deposit account of Applicants' assignee, Visteon Global Technologies, Inc., as indicated in the Transmittal accompanying this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

OFFICIAL

Lawrence G. Almeda (Reg. No. 46,151)
Attorney for Applicants

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BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
PO Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60611-5599